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## AUSTRALIA.

*Reports from Brisbane—Plague bulletins—Plague in Queensland and New South Wales.*

Consul-General Bray, at Melbourne, forwards the following:

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, QUEENSLAND,  
*Brisbane, February 4, 1905.*

Plague bulletin No. 5, for week ended 12 o'clock noon, Saturday, February 4, 1905:

## PLAGUE IN MAN.

The following 5 cases of plague occurred in Brisbane during the above-mentioned period:

1 (a). *January 30.*—A youth, aged 17 years, an employee in a furniture warehouse in the city, and a resident of Clayfield in the suburbs. Now under treatment at the plague hospital.

2. *January 31.*—A youth, aged 18 years, a plumber employed in a galvanized-iron worker's establishment in Fortitude Valley, and a resident of Albion road, Breakfast Creek, near the city. Died on January 31, ultimo.

3 (b). *February 2.*—A man, aged 20 years, an employee in the same furniture warehouse as case (a), declared on the 31st ultimo. This man was a resident of Montague road, South Brisbane. He died at his home on February 2, before his removal to the plague hospital could be effected.

4. *February 3.*—A man, aged 35 years, a storekeeper carrying on business at Main street, Kangaroo Point, where he also resided, in proximity to his store. Reported to have handled dead rats found on the premises of his store. This patient was an inmate of the general hospital and was in a dying condition when seen by the health officer. The post-mortem examination, together with the bacteriological investigations made, proved the case to be one of plague.

5. *February 3.*—A dairyman, aged 36 years, carrying on business and residing at Mount Gravatt, about 5 miles from Brisbane, on the southern side of the river. Reported to have handled dead rats found on his premises.

A search for live rats or carcasses of dead rats is at the present time being carried out by the departmental gang.

Seven cases of illness reported as suspicious of plague have, after investigation, been declared not to be cases of plague.

NOTES.—(a) This youth was employed at the furniture factory in removing wrappings (Chinese matting wrappers) from goods recently imported by the firm from Hongkong.

(b) This boy was employed by the firm in the place of case (a) and was also engaged in the removal of the above-mentioned wrappers. Parts of these wrappings are being bacteriologically examined and the remainder destroyed by fire.

This warehouse is kept scrupulously clean and repeated searches for rats failed to reveal any traces of them, and there have been no infected rats in these premises.

## SUMMARY.

Cases declared during week .....	5
Cases discharged .....	0
Remaining under treatment .....	3
Deaths .....	3

Last case February 3.

## PLAGUE IN RATS AND MICE.

	Rats.	Mice.	Total.
Total number destroyed during period mentioned .....	630	99	729
Total examined at bacteriological institute .....	346	93	439
Total found infected .....	6	1	7

Date of last infected rat, February 3, 1905.

## LOCATION OF INFECTED RATS.

One mus. rat, Edward street; 1 mus. rat, Roma street; 3 mus. rats, George street; 1 mouse, George street.

B. BURNETT HAM,  
*Commissioner of Public Health.*

BRISBANE, *February 11, 1905.*

Plague bulletin No. 6 for week ended 12 o'clock noon Saturday, February 11, 1905.

The following 4 cases of plague occurred in Brisbane during the above-mentioned period:

*February 5.*—A youth, aged 18 years, an employee in a grocer's store in the city, and a resident of Paddington. Three plague-infected rats have been found in the vicinity of the store.

*February 5.*—A man, aged 59 years, employed as a packer in a wholesale chemist and druggists' establishment in the city, and a resident of Paddington. The packing (straw) used by the firm had been obtained from a produce store in the city.

*February 7.*—A married woman, aged 25 years, residing at Paddington. No trace of rats on premises. A number of dead rats were found in a small store in close proximity to where the patient lived.

*February 7.*—A servant girl, aged 20 years, a resident of Springhill, city, died at the general hospital on the 7th instant. Post-mortem examination of the body and the bacteriological investigation made in connection therewith proved the case to have been one of bubonic plague. Four dead rats, too decomposed for examination, were found on premises where the patient resided.

## SUMMARY.

Number of cases declared to date .....	11
Cases declared during week .....	4
Cases discharged .....	0
Remaining under treatment .....	6
Deaths during week .....	1

Last case February 7, 1905.

## PLAGUE IN RATS.

	Rats.	Mice.	Total.
Total number destroyed during period mentioned .....	748	218	966
Total number examined at Bacteriological Institute .....	364	109	473
Total number infected .....	11	0	11

Date of last infected rat, February 10, 1905.

## LOCATION OF INFECTED RATS.

February 4, 1 infected rat from hotel, Edward street, and 1 from boarding house, Roma street; February 6, 1 infected rat from grocer, George street, 1 from hotel, Edward street, same premises, and 1 from cabinetmaker, Charlotte street; February 7, 1 infected rat from fishdealer, Victoria, S. Brisbane; February 8, 1 infected rat from grocer, George street; February 9, 2 infected rats from grocer, George street, same premises; February 10, 1 infected rat from wholesale fruit merchant, Makers-ton street, and 1 from hotel, George street.

## BUNDABERG.

On the 3d instant a man, 26 years of age, died at Woongarra, Bundaberg. Post-mortem examination of the body and the bacteriological investigation made of specimens, which were forwarded to Brisbane, proved the case to have been one of bubonic plague.

B. BURNETT HAM,  
*Commissioner of Public Health.*

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH,  
STATE OF NEW SOUTH WALES,  
*Sydney, January 25, 1905.*

## BUBONIC PLAGUE—CLARENCE RIVER DISTRICT.

*Bulletin 1.*

On January 7, 1905, plague was recognized in a patient living at Ulmarra on the Clarence River. He was removed to isolation in hospital at Grafton. The premises he occupied were disinfected. Search for plague rats was at once begun by an experienced staff.

On January 22 a further case was reported in the person of James Donaldson, who also lived at Ulmarra. He was removed to isolation in hospital at Grafton. The premises he had occupied were immediately disinfected.

(These two cases have already been reported.)

On January 24 a further case was reported in a person who lived at Cowper within the same municipality. The patient has been transported to isolation at Grafton.

The measures taken to destroy rats were carried out by a local staff under direction, as regards catching, of expert rat catchers sent from Sydney. Examination of the rats found was conducted by an experienced laboratory assistant, also sent from Sydney, under direction of an assistant medical officer of Government in charge of the epidemic. Plague rats were found at a wharf on the river and in central buildings at Ulmarra. They were also found in the neighborhood of Cowper.

It should be noted that the municipality of Ulmarra is 300 miles north of Sydney, and that the infection, whether of rats or man, is confined to it.

Plague is a notifiable disease in the State of New South Wales.

From this date weekly bulletins will be regularly issued.

By order:

G. H. KING, *Secretary.*